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February 11, 2011

Dear School Administrator/Nurse:

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Immunization Program, has developed a Pertussis Booster Toolkit for Schools to help promote the new school entry immunization law, AB 354. This law requires all incoming 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders to receive a pertussis booster prior to entering school for the 2011 – 2012 school year. After this year, the law will apply to students entering the 7<sup>th</sup> grade only.

We hope you will find these resources helpful to promote awareness to your parents and students of the need to obtain the pertussis booster, or Tdap vaccine, before the next school year begins. The kit includes a variety of customizable tools, including template articles for parent and student newsletters, letters to parents, as well as a flyer that can be distributed.

The Toolkit has been prepared with the knowledge that schools have varying resources. In addition to print materials, the Toolkit contains a script for making automated calls to parents, newsletter articles, and a web page alert. These are templates, so please adapt them to meet your school's needs.

As you may know, the new school entry law was enacted to protect California's youth against the recent pertussis epidemic. In 2010, California reported its highest number of cases in the past 60 years. To protect our children, we urge you to notify the parents of the requirement throughout the remainder of this school year. Please remind parents that the law states their children will not be admitted to school in the fall without proof of Tdap vaccination. A Td vaccination should not be accepted for school entry.

The Pertussis Booster Toolkit is available at: [www.ph.lacounty.gov/ip/school/pertussisforschool.htm](http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/ip/school/pertussisforschool.htm).

If you require further information about the Pertussis school entry law, please contact the Immunization Program at (213) 351-7800. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Michelle T. Parra, Ph.D.**  
Director, Los Angeles County Immunization Program

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